

retaining pocket, a right arm covering, a left arm covering, a left leg covering, and a right leg covering;

a unitary floatation element for retention by said retaining pocket, said unitary floatation element including:

a backsheet comprising a layer of buoyant material having a thickness within a first predetermined range for providing general buoyancy to a wearer, said backsheet including an inner surface for presentation toward a wearer and an outer surface for presentation away from a wearer; and

a plurality of raised portions integrally carried by said backsheet in fixed relative positions for providing enhanced buoyancy to strategically selected areas of the wearer's body, each of said raised portions comprising a buoyant material having a thickness substantially greater than that of said backsheet and each of said raised portions extending outwardly from said outer surface of said backsheet.

Please cancel claim 3.

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

5. A unitary floatation element for use in a floatation swimsuit, said floatation element comprising:

a backsheet contained within a torso covering including a right arm covering, a left arm covering, a left leg covering, and a right leg covering, said backsheet comprising a layer of buoyant material having a thickness within a first predetermined range for providing general buoyancy to a wearer, said backsheet including an inner surface for presentation toward a wearer and an outer surface for presentation away from a wearer;

a plurality of raised portions integrally carried by said backsheet in fixed relative positions for providing enhanced buoyancy to strategically selected areas of the wearer's body, each of said raised portions comprising a buoyant material having a thickness substantially greater than that of said backsheet and each of said raised portions extending outwardly from said outer surface of said backsheet.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

7. A floatation swimsuit comprising:

a form-fitting torso covering including a right arm covering, a left arm covering, a left leg covering, and a right leg covering, said form-fitting torso covering including a distributed layer of buoyant material distributed substantially throughout for providing general buoyancy to the wearer, said distributed layer of buoyant material having a thickness in a first particular range; and

a plurality of enhanced buoyancy regions integrally carried by said distributed layer of buoyant material in fixed positions for providing enhanced buoyancy to strategically selected areas of the wearer's body, each of said enhanced buoyancy regions comprising a buoyant material having a thickness substantially greater than that of said distributed layer of buoyant material and extending outwardly therefrom.

Please amend claim 13 as follows:

13. A method of manufacturing a floatation swimsuit comprising the steps of:
providing a form-fitting torso covering having an element retaining pocket, a right arm covering, a left arm covering, a left leg covering, and a right leg covering;
providing a unitary floatation element having a backsheet comprising a layer of buoyant material having a thickness within a first predetermined range and a plurality of raised portions integrally carried by said backsheet for providing enhanced buoyancy to strategically selected areas of the wearer's body;
positioning said unitary floatation element at a desired location adjacent said form-fitting torso covering;
securing said unitary floatation element within said element retaining pocket.

Please add the following new claim 15:

15. A floatation swimsuit comprising:
a form-fitting torso covering, said form-fitting torso covering including a retaining pocket;
a unitary floatation element for retention by said retaining pocket, said unitary floatation element including:
a backsheet comprising a layer of buoyant material having a